

Motion Filed in Pilgrim Re-licensing

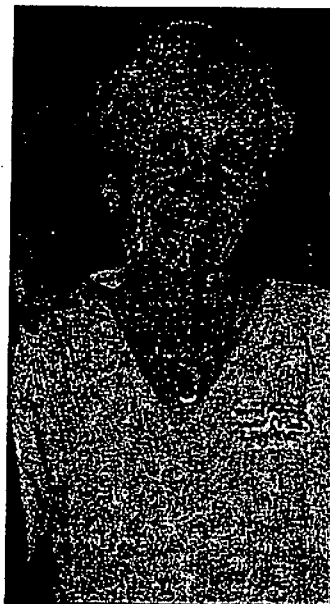
By MORAG MACLACHLAN

Two motions were filed to intervene in the re-licensing process of the Pilgrim Power Plant. One was filed by Attorney General Tom Reilly's office and the other was filed by Pilgrim Watch's Mary Lampert of Washington Street and Attorney Molly Bartlett of Crooked Lane.

Back in January, Entergy, the owner of Pilgrim Power Plant, formally applied to extend its license for 20 years. Lampert said the deadline to file a motion to intervene was the end of May. Together she and Bartlett filed a 160-page motion. At the beginning of July, the Atomic Energy Licensing Board, which acts as a judge on behalf of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission or NRC, heard arguments for and against these motions. Lampert said the board usually only checks on two areas when re-licensing a nuclear power plant... the aging management of fixed structural components and the environmental impact.

"Fixed structural components do not take into consideration motors or valves because the board feels those parts are continually fixed," Lampert, who is chairwoman of the Duxbury Nuclear Advisory Committee, said.

Lampert, Bartlett and the Attorney General all felt that other criteria should be added. The three faced off against industry representatives and people from Entergy during the two day meeting earlier this month according to Lampert. Reilly's office was concerned with spent fuel storage and the consideration of terrorism in emergency planning. Lampert and Bartlett shared these concerns and also felt four other contentions should be added, including evaluating the likelihood of a severe accident, the human health impacts of



Chairwoman of the Duxbury Nuclear Advisory Committee, Mary Lampert of Washington Street, spearheaded a movement to file a motion to intervene in the re-licensing process of Pilgrim Power Plant.

the plant, the checking of buried pipes and the monitoring of corrosion in areas like the dry well container.

"We had to limit the scope of our contentions to fit into either aging management or the environmental impacts," Bartlett said. "Two of our concerns fit into aging management and the other three were environmental issues. We cared more about the environmental concerns. For example, in the event of an accident, they [Entergy] are drastically undercounting and not considering the impact this would truly have on the economy. Tourist won't go to Plimoth Plantation if there is an accident."

Lampert said she put together the factual background of the motion while Bartlett volunteered her legal services pro bono.

In addition to being able to speak to their motion at the beginning of July, the public was given the opportunity to make their concerns known

before the board. Lampert was disappointed to see only six people attend this public forum with only three people from Duxbury expressing their concerns.

"The Atomic Energy Licensing Board couldn't believe that no one was there because when these hearings are held in places like Vermont, hundreds come out," Lampert said. "Unfortunately we are not in the driver's seat unless the public takes an interest in protecting themselves. Why should you participate? One, you may be lucky and the motions will be accepted and you'll get a change in this rigged process. And two, by using the hearing process as a stage, the press follows it and people become educated about the health issues, the security problems and the lack of monitoring wells."

Lampert said Pilgrim Watch's motion would never have been possible without the efforts of Bartlett, who she calls an "unsung heroine" for volunteering hours upon hours of her time that would have cost thousands of dollars if she had actually been paid for her work.

"It was tough to just get a seat at the table," Bartlett said. "It was wonderful to have the Attorney General alongside."

Bartlett added that the board will have a hearing in mid-August and at that point in time they could rule to accept all, some or none of the five contentions. If any of the contentions are considered, Lampert said that will slow the re-licensing process down from 20 months to 30 months to allow for expert testimony and a discovery period. If none of the contentions from the motion are considered, Lampert said she plans to appeal in federal court.